

Meeting Report

Date of Meeting September 27, 2005 1:00–3:00 PM
Gila Bend Town Council Meeting Room

Subject Study Team Meeting
SR 85 Gila Bend, TRACS No. 85 MA 123 H6407 01L
Phase 2- Design Concept Report / Environmental Assessment
Meeting #2

Participants See Attached Sign-In Sheets

Date of Issue October 15, 2005 **Author** Tricia Brown

October 18, 2005: Addendum to distributed minutes:

1. Based on the various comments received during the meeting regarding a traffic interchange from the new freeway to Business 8, south of the railroad, the Department wishes to provide the following clarification: A traffic interchange of any kind along Business 8 is not viable nor has it been requested by the Town Officials. It is understood that access would be made easier for the property owners in this specific area, however the spacing is too close to the new directional interchange with Interstate 8 and would not meet ADOT's design criteria. Therefore, access from Business 8 to SR 85 and Interstate 8 will remain "as-is" after construction of the new facility.
2. The current website for SR 85 can be found using the following link:
<http://www.azdot.gov/Highways/Projects/SR85/Index.asp>. Please disregard the address provided previously.

Introductions

Tricia Brown welcomed everyone to the Progress Meeting and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. A list of participants from the Progress Meeting is attached.

Minutes of this meeting will be sent out via e-mail and they will be posted to the ADOT SR 85 Website (<http://www.azdot.gov/roads/sr85/>). No comments were received on the August 23, 2005 Meeting Report.

Previous Action Items

HES Study and Intersection Improvements: Accident data has been collected from ADOT resources for the intersection of SR 85 and Maricopa Road. The information has been submitted to ADOT HES Group for evaluation. To ensure no accident history is omitted, a request for accident data has also been submitted to

HES Funding for Maricopa Road/SR 85 Intersection – Tim Wilson reported that the HES process is underway, which will require review of the recent accident data to determine funding.

Project Status and Update

The Corridor Location Analysis Report was distributed by ADOT on August 10, 2005. This report documents the evaluation of the corridor alternatives and presents the recommended corridor. It also includes the Environmental Overview and Traffic Analysis for the corridor alternatives. Anyone not in receipt of the report was asked to request one from AMEC. Comments received will be incorporated into the Initial Design Concept Report.

The Town reported that they had requested accident data for the Maricopa Road / SR 85 intersection from emergency responders and had not received any responses.

Project Schedule

Phase I of this study was concluded with the issuance of the Corridor Location Analysis Report. Beginning with the August Progress Meeting, we have begun Phase 2, the Design Concept Report and Environmental Assessment. During this phase the study team will establish centerline alignments within the recommended corridor.

An Initial Design Concept Report and Draft Environmental Assessment will document the evaluation of roadway alignments within the corridor. Tricia Brown stated that a project schedule will be distributed at the September Progress Meeting.

Update on Alignment Workshops

Alignment workshops were held on July 27, 2005, and August 23, 2005. The purpose of the workshops was to meet with property owners to obtain feedback and ideas on the location of the 300-foot wide roadway within the 1000-foot wide corridor. Input from these workshops have been compiled on aerial photographs and are displayed at the Town Council Chambers. Aerial photos are also available upon request from AMEC.

Environmental Update

Mike Book reported that the cultural resources survey of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) has been completed and a Draft Report is being prepared. Twelve sites are within the APE: one National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed (Gila Bend Overpass), 8 eligible, and 3 ineligible sites. The Draft Report will be submitted to the ADOT Historic Preservation Team by September 1, 2005.

Other Discussion

Phil Bleyl, FHWA, stated that a Change of Access (COA) Report will need to be submitted for the new interchange along I-8. Upon completion of Initial Design Concept Report (DCR), the COA Report will be prepared and submitted to FHWA for preliminary concurrence, pending the Final DCR.

A team member suggested that the SR 85 website be updated to provide current information on the study. ADOT maintains the website for the SR 85 Corridor from I-10 to I-8. Tricia Brown will coordinate with Orlando Jerez, ADOT Statewide Project Management, to update the site to include aerial photos, meeting minutes, agendas, upcoming meetings, etc. The website can be found at <http://www.azdot.gov/roads/sr85>.

A team member expressed concern about the condition of the Maricopa Road / SR 85 intersection. There have been traffic accidents at this location and residents experience traffic delays, primarily due to the truck volumes using Maricopa Road. He suggested that the intersection could be moved to the east and provide an acceleration lane. He also asked about the Town of Gila Bend resolution to reduce the speed limit through the intersection from 45 mph to 35 mph. Lynn Farmer stated that a copy of the resolution was sent to ADOT's Yuma and Phoenix Districts. Paul Patane, ADOT Yuma District, will check into the speed limit reduction.

Closing

The next progress meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. in Gila Bend. At this meeting AMEC will present preliminary horizontal centerline alignments within the 1000-foot wide corridor. A project schedule, along with upcoming meetings and discussion items, will be provided as well.

ACTION ITEMS

	Item	Responsible	Status
1	Check on HES funding for interim Maricopa Road Improvements	Wilson	Completed
2	Collect accident data at Maricopa Road / SR 85 intersection for past 5 years	Patane/Farmer	Underway
3	Check status of speed limit reduction request from Town of Gila Bend	Patane	Underway
4	Provide aerial photos with public input / annotation to team members	Brown	Underway
5	Update SR 85 website to provide current information; provide link to website to project team	Brown/Jerez	Underway
6	Provide update on public notification newsletter for Corridor Study completion	Simpson-Colebank	Underway